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TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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SALT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, PINT, PARM, XG, XO

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

VIENNA AND GENEVA FOR MBFR AND CSCE

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. TUESDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGED BRITAIN PRESSES
MARKET ON TERMS AND ON WEDNESDAY: US-COMMART TIE AGAIN

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SCUTTLED BY FRENCH. THURSDAY NYTIMES FRONTPAGES LAOTIAN

COALITION READIED. SOME COMMENT ON DIEGO GARCIA AND OTHER TOPICS.

1A. TUESDAY INSIDE BALTSUN HAD MOSCOW AGAIN DERIDES KISSINGER MIDEAST PEACE EFFORTS. THURSDAY WASHPOST HAS SENATE UNIT CUTS ARMS BUDGET; ALSO SCHLESINGER CITES SOVIET MISSILE COSTS; NYTIMES HAS BRIEF, ARMS NEGOTIATORS MEET.

2. SALT. NYTIMES BRIEF IS GENEVA REUTERS REPORTING US AND SOVIET OFFICIALS MET FOR TWO HOURS FOR TECHNICAL TALKS ON THE SUPERVISION OF AGREEMENTS LIMITING STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE OFFICIALS, MEETING AS US-SOVIET JOINT STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, LATER ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE THAT GAVE NO DETAILS BUT SAID THE TWO SIDES WOULD MEET AGAIN ON FRIDAY.

2A. SUNDAY LATIMES HAD FEATURES BY DON COOK ON DISARM-AMMENT EFFORTS OF RECENT YEARS, NOTING THAT THEY HAVEN'T INCLUDED INDIAN, PAKISTANI, OR AFRICAN FORCES, SUGGESTING THAT AT MBFR--IN VIEW OF ENORMOUS DISPARITIES BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW POWERS--ANY AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL REDUCTIONS IS LIKELY TO LOOK LIKE A BAD AGREEMENT IN THE WEST. COOK SAYS KISSINGER-BREZHNEV TALKS APPARENTLY DID NOT LAY FOUNDATION FOR NEW SALT TREATY-SIGNING THIS JUNE, BUT IMPORTANT THING IS TO KEEP THE PROCESS GOING; AND THAT IS REALLY THE BIGGEST ADVANCE THAT THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD ARE MAINTAINING. LATIMES ALSO HAS AN EXTENSIVE QUESTION-AND-ANSWER ARTICLE BY COOK ON SALT WHICH HOLDS THAT THE VERY FACT THAT SUPERPOWERS HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT LIMITING NUKES FOR FIVE YEARS IS ALMOST AS IMPORTANT AS WHAT THEY HAVE AGREED UPON. COOK ALSO GIVES THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SALT ONE, EXPLAINS THROW-WEIGHT, ROLE OF BOMBERS, ABM SYSTEMS, SAYS BOTH SIDES APPEAR TO BE LIVING UP TO SALT ONE, SUGGESTS THAT MANY AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS DO NOT SEE AS MUCH URGENCY ABOUT SALT TWO AS NIXON AND KISSINGER DO. ACCORDING COOK, US MADE A PRETTY GOOD GESTURE TOWARD DETENTE BY AGREEING TO LIMIT ITS MISSILES TO A SMALLER NUMBER THAN THE RUSSIANS; IF THE SOVIETS ARE NOT YET READY TO REDUCE THEIR MISSILE NUMBERS, AMERICANS MIGHT WELL ASK THEMSELVES WHAT UNCLASSIFIED

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DETENTE REALLY MEANS--AND ASK THE RUSSIANS TOO.

2B. THURSDAY WASHPOST GETLER REPORTS SCHLESINGER ESTIMATED IN MARCH 4 TESTIMONY IT WILL COST SOVIETS BETWEEN 35 AND 45 BILLIONS OVER 7 YEAR PERIOD IF MOSCOW DECIDES TO REPLACE 1400 OF ITS MOST MODERN LAND-BASED MISSILES WITH BIGGER AND BETTER VERSIONS NOW BEING TESTED. YET EVEN THIS MASSIVE INVESTMENT, SCHLESINGER SAID, WILL

NOT PROVIDE SOVIETS WITH ABILITY TO LAUNCH DISARMING ATTACK AGAINST US LAND-BASED MISSILE FORCES. IN PART, SCHLESINGER SAID THIS IS BECAUSE US WOULD BE FORCED TO TAKE COUNTERACTIONS IN INTERIM IF ARMS RACE IS NOT CHECKED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. THUS, NEW ROUND IN ARMS RACE WOULD LEAVE NEITHER SUPERPOWER BETTER OFF, BUT INTRODUCTION OF MORE POWERFUL SOVIET WEAPONS WILL CREATE MORE DANGEROUS INSTABILITIES SINCE THEY ERODE FEELING OF SECURITY. SCHLESINGER ADDED US CANNOT ALLOW SOVIETS TO DEVELOP MARKED SUPERIORITY IN A COUNTER FORCE ROLE.

3. DEFENSE. THURSDAY WASHPOST REUTER REPORTS SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE SHARPLY CUT SUPPLEMENTAL MILITARY

SPENDING BILL YESTERDAY, SLICING EXTRA FUNDS REQUESTED FOR SOUTH VIETNAM AND DELETING MONEY FOR SECOND TRIDENT SUBMARINE AND MILITARY BASE IN INDIAN OCEAN. PANEL AUTHORIZED 571.3 MILLIONS OF 1.3 BILLIONS REQUESTED BY ADMINISTRATION. COMMITTEE SOURCES SAID MANY REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND RESEARCH WERE DEFERRED UNTIL PANEL ACTS LATER THIS YEAR ON REGULAR DEFENSE BUDGET. INCLUDED IN THIS CATEGORY WAS NAVY REQUEST FOR 29 MILLIONS TO IMPROVE NAVY BASE ON DIEGO GARCIA.

4. DIEGO GARCIA. WHILE DISCUSSION OF THE PENTAGON PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE COMMUNICATIONS STATION AT DIEGO GARCIA BY EXTENDING RUNWAY AND DEEPENING HARBOR IS NOT YET HEAVY, ANALYSIS OF DOZEN EDITORIALS FROM REPRESENTATIVE PAPERS SHOWS FOUR PAPERS IN FAVOR OF PROPOSAL, AND REMAINDER COUNSELING DELAY. ALL PAPERS HAVE NOTED INCREASING SOVIET PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN, AND LIKELIHOOD OF FURTHER INCREASE AFTER RE-OPENING OF SUEZ; BUT MAJORITY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT A BIG-POWER ARMS RACE IN UNCLASSIFIED

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AREA. THE FOUR FAVORING ACTION ARE KANSAS CITY TIMES, LOS ANGELES TIMES, SAN DIEGO UNION, WASHSTAR. FEW, IF ANY, PAPERS HAVE EXPRESSED FINAL OR ABSOLUTE OPPOSITION TO EXPANDING THE DIEGO GARCIA STATION; BUT THEY TEND TO AGREE WITH BALTSUN WHICH CALLS FOR A GENUINE EFFORT TO STOP THE ARMS RACE. SCRIPPS-HOWARD PAPERS SUGGEST WAITING TO SEE IF SOVIET VESSELS REALLY COME POURING THROUGH SUEZ AND ADD: IF THEY DO, AREA NATIONS WILL WELCOME-- RATHER THAN RESENT--A BIGGER US NAVAL PRESENCE. US-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON A CEILING FOR FORCES IN AREA IS PROPOSED BY C.S.MONITOR. OTHERS COUNSELING DELAY ARE: NEWSDAY, NEW ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE, PROVIDENCE JOURNAL, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH, SALT LAKE CITY TRIBUNE.

5. NATO BIRTHDAY. THURSDAY NYTIMES COMMENTS IT IS EASY

TO FORGET WHAT A SUCCESS ATLANTIC ALLIANCE HAS BEEN, ADD-
ING THAT PERHAPS THE MOST STRIKING FACT ABOUT ALLIANCE
IS THAT NOT ONE MEMBER GOVERNMENT HAS PULLED OUT OF
TREATY AS ALL HAVE HAD THE RIGHT TO DO AT ANY TIME SINCE
1969. TIMES SAY ALLIANCE MEMBERS PROBABLY AGREE WITH
BRANDT THAT NO EUROPEAN UNITY CAN DISPENSE WITH ATLANTIC
SECURITY, AND VIABLE ALLIANCE CANNOT DISPENSE WITH
EUROPEAN UNITY.

5A. WEDNESDAY SULZBERGER SAID CEMENT OF FEAR WHICH HELD
NATO TOGETHER IS NOW LARGELY NON-EXISTENT, ADDING IT IS

DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THAT NATO WILL ENDURE ANOTHER
QUARTER OF A CENTURY. THE TROUBLE WITH THE ALLIANCE
AND THE REASON ITS FUTURE IS DIFFICULT TO FORECAST, IS
THAT IT HAS NEVER REALLY DEFINED ITS PURPOSE DESPITE
MANIFOLD DECLARATIONS. THERE IS MORE AND MORE INCLINA-
TION TO STRESS DIFFERENCES IN PHILOSOPHY AND IDEOLOGY
AMONG THE ALLIES. RUSH

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